

MONDAY, MAY 5, 1862.

TRIPLE SHEET.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee for his good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications. All business letters for this office should be addressed to "THE TRIBUNE," New-York.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

—Yesterday afternoon we received a dispatch from the Supervisor of Telegraphs at Fortress Monroe, announcing that Yorktown was evacuated on Saturday night, and that they left a large amount of equipment, which they could not destroy for fear of being seen. A subsequent dispatch from Gen. McClellan, which, as well as the first, we published yesterday, in an extra edition, says "We have the rumparts, with guns, ammunition and camp equipment. We hold the entire line of the works, which the engineers report to be very strong." Gen. McClellan further reports that the whole of his cavalry force and horse artillery are in pursuit; that our gunboats have gone up York River, and that Franklin's division has also been moved up the river, with as many more troops as transports could be found to convey. Our forces have also taken Gloucester, and to this is added a promise by the Commanding General that he will push the enemy to the wall. A later dispatch says the evacuation commenced on Thursday last, the Rebels fearing that with the aid of the river fleet our forces might get into their rear and thus cut off all means of retreat. This dispatch sets down the number of guns captured at 75.

—Gen. Pope telegraphs from near Farmington to Petersburg Landing, under date of May 3, that a reconnaissance sent toward Farmington found the enemy 4,500 strong, with four pieces of artillery and some cavalry occupying a strong position near the town. Our forces advanced at once to the assault, and after a sharp skirmish carried the position in fine style. The enemy left thirty dead on the field, with their tents and baggage, our cavalry pursuing them. The enemy fled in wild confusion. Some regiments of cavalry, sent through to Boonville, took possession of the town, tore up the railroad track, and destroyed two bridges. Gen. Pope says he has a good many prisoners, but cannot tell how many yet. The national loss is two killed and twelve wounded. By way of Memphis we have a report that Gen. Beauregard is moving large bodies of troops Southward; some go by railroad, and others afoot. A few have gone West. It is generally understood that he is evacuating the place. He says that President Davis understands his movements. Purdy was evacuated on Wednesday last, and has since been burned. Every building is said to be destroyed.

—The additional news we received from New-Orleans is from Rebel sources, and is to the effect that the telegraph operator from the Bay St. Louis has telegraphed to the Mobile office that the stores in New-Orleans were being emptied of sugar and molasses, which were thrown into the streets and the river. The city was to have been formally surrendered on the 20th ult., but the time was extended. Some of the national vessels have gone up the river.

—The Merrimack yesterday made her appearance off Sewall's Point and remained there up to 4 o'clock p. m. It is presumed her object is to prevent any advance of our fleet up the James River which would enable Gen. McClellan to attack the retreating Rebels.

—We publish to-day Gen. Burnside's official report of the engagement at South Mills, in which he highly extols the skill and bravery of Gen. Reno and the officers of his command.

—The latest dispatches from Gen. Halleck, it will be seen, says he has advanced his headquarters twelve miles from Putnam Landing, and is pressing close upon the Rebels.

—It is reported from Washington that the bill proposing to limit the number of brigadier-generals to 200, and of major-generals to 50, in all probability will become a law.

GENERAL NEWS.

—The mails by the America, bringing London papers of Saturday evening, the 19th ult., arrived on Saturday evening. The telegraphic summary, published in our edition of Friday, contained most of the important items of news. We find, however, some additional points of interest, regarding Mr. Cobden's views of international maritime law. He proposes the exemption of private property from capture at sea during war, by armed vessels of every kind; that blockades be restricted to naval armaments, and to towns besieged at the same time on land, with the exception of articles contraband of war; and that the merchant ships of neutrals on the high seas be inviolable to the visitation to alien government vessels, in time of war as in time of peace. These changes, he contends, are "the necessary corollary of the repeal of the Navigation Laws, the abolition of the Corn Laws, and the abandonment of our colonial monopoly. We have thrown away the scepter of force, to confide in the principle of freedom—unconquered, unconditional freedom. Under this new regime, our national fortunes have prospered beyond all precedent. During the last fourteen years the increase in our commerce has exceeded its entire growth during the previous thousand years of reliance on force, cunning, and monopoly. This should encourage us to go forward, in the full faith that every fresh impediment removed from the path of commerce, whether by sea or land, and whether in peace or war, will augment our prosperity, at the same time that it will promote the general interests of humanity." It is said that Rebel parties are building, or at least fitting out in English ports, a number of ships to be employed in the American war, and as a proof, it is alleged that the Captain and officers of the privateer Santa have arrived at Southampton from Gibraltar.

The Religious Anniversaries for the year 1862, were inaugurated by services before the various societies last evening. The Rev. Mr. Duryan and the Rev. Dr. Rodgers addressed the N. Y. Bible Society; the Rev. Kingston Goddard preached before the American and Foreign Christian Union; the Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler addressed the American Female Guardian Society and Home for the Friendless; the Rev. Dr. Krebs preached before the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions; and a sermon was delivered by Prof. Crosby before the Society of Inquiry of the Union Theological Seminary. The Rev. Mr. Todd preached before the American Seamen's Friend Society; and the Rev. Dr. Cheever preached before the American Church Anti-Slavery Society.

—The United States steamer Santiago de Cuba arrived at this port on Saturday from Port Royal, bringing as a prize the celebrated Rebel steamer Ella Warley (formerly the Isabel), which was captured while on her way from Havana, laden with Enfield rifles, cannon, and ammunition for the Rebels, and bound for Charleston. The Santiago chased the privateer Nashville before she fell in with the Ella Warley, and the Nashville was too swift for her.

The British steamer Bermuda and the steamer Florida were also brought into Philadelphia on Saturday as prizes.

—It will be seen from Washington correspondence, published elsewhere this morning, that the Tax bill makes exceedingly slow progress, although the Committee are hard at work. Some of the changes made in the bill, as it first came from the House, have since been reconsidered, and the original imports re-established, so that it is impossible to say in what shape the bill may yet appear.

—We have later news from Mexico this morning, confirming the completeness of the rupture between the Allied invaders, and the determination of France to pursue her purpose of subjugation alone. President Juarez, meanwhile has ordered out all citizens between the ages of 20 and 60, to make such resistance as he can.

—Mr. Seward has addressed to the Foreign Ministers in Washington an important circular announcing the renewal of mail communication with New-Orleans, and the intention of the Government at once to reopen that port for foreign commerce.

STATE OF THE MARKETS.

Government Stocks were buoyant and active on Saturday, and for the first time since the commencement of the rebellion went up to par. The event was hailed with cheers in the Board. The Fives of 1854 touched 93, an advance of 3½ cent over Friday; and there was corresponding buoyancy in all the issues except 7.30 Notes, which are kept at about 102½ by the fresh supplies received by the Sub-Treasurer. In exchange there was a considerable amount of business done, partly on speculation, and rates ruled at 113½-113½ for Sterling. Freighters are firmer, but very quiet: To Liverpool, engagements of 18,000 bushels of Wheat at 8d., in bulk and in bags; 1,500 bbls. of Flour at 2s. 4½d. 2s. 6d. The business of the Sub-Treasurer was: Receipts, \$6,290,302; for Customs, \$135,000; Payments, \$5,207,814; Balance, \$15,497,107. The market for Western and State Flour was quiet, but without essential change. Sales of 6,000 bbls. at \$5.05-5.15 for superfine State and Western; \$5.25-5.35 for extra State. There is a little more inquiry for Wheat, for milling purposes, but the market lacks activity in the absence of a sufficient assortment for shipping. Sales of 4,300 bushels Red State at \$1.21; 3,500 do. mixed Western at \$1.21; 6,500 do. Canada Club at \$1.15. The demand for Pork is limited, and the market on Saturday closed heavy; sales of 675 bbls. at \$12.62-12.72 for Mess; \$10.25-10.35 for Prime. There was only a moderate business done in Cotton, and prices remain nominal at 37-37½ cents for Middling Uplands, and do. New-Orleans and Texas.

THE RETIRING REBELS.

The Rebels in lower Virginia during Saturday night hastily evacuated their strong line of fortifications at Yorktown retreating up the Peninsula toward Richmond. Of course, they carried off many of their guns and stores, but left a number of heavy siege-pieces, with a considerable amount of camp equipment and ordnance stored. We presume they have retreated to a new and stronger line of defenses, which they have been constructing while Gen. McClellan was preparing to take that before which he had set down. We wish they had staid and tried conclusions at Yorktown, though the retrograde movement must tend to demoralize their rank and file, beside depleting their scanty stores. Gen. McClellan would probably have opened fire on them this morning had they remained. He will follow them up steadily, and bring them to a speedy issue if possible; and it may be that they will find an unexpected obstacle in the way of their retreat in the force of Gen. Franklin, which, having never landed from the transports, was ready to start in immediate pursuit, and was moved at once by Gen. McClellan toward West Point.

We have the authority of the War Department for contradicting the report that Beauregard is evacuating Corinth. It may then be his intention to lead the better portion of his army by rail in a desperate effort to recover New-Orleans. This, however, involves the surrender of his present line of defense with Memphis and Arkansas to Gen. Halleck; and while we do not decide that he will or will not try it, would be a confession that his cause is hopeless.

—The last pretense of the Rebel organs has been that, though we were successful on the sea-coast and the great rivers by means of our gunboats, they were our masters on firm, dry land. But Dranesville, Mill Spring, Pea Ridge, and Winchester were strictly land-battles; while at Fort Donelson, the gunboats, though bravely fought, contributed little or nothing to the rebel discomfiture. At Pittsburg Landing, the gunboats helped save us from rout the first day, but did not help win the Union triumph of Monday. And now, if Beauregard shuns a fight at Corinth, and Jeff. Davis runs from behind his intrenchments at Yorktown, how will it be possible to make the great body of the rebel soldiery longer believe that they are the more effective combatants on dry land? If they are, why not fight? Can they expect to win by perpetual running? Large as their territory is (we mean *was*) it will be all gone if they keep retreating in every quarter.

The War has now been over a year in progress, and has been signalized by not less than a hundred distinct combats of greater or less consequence. Can any one say where, during this year of fighting, a Rebel army has once offered battle on equal ground to an equal number of Unionists? We cannot.

—R. G. writes us from the "Camp before Fredericksburg, Va.," a severe letter on Col. Crocker and Major Cassidy, whom he does not doubt deserted from our lines before Yorktown when they pretended to be taken prisoners. The only circumstance on which he seems to rely is thus stated by him:

"Since the outbreak of the present rebellion, Col. Crocker has always sympathized with the Rebels, and on several occasions delayed their course."

—We submit that to accept this as of itself

evidence of treason would be quite too sweeping—in fact, it would put too many Army Officers in the category of actual or probable traitors. We prefer to await further developments.

OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE MEXICAN INVASION.

The number and magnitude of the official documents relating to the Mexican invasion, which have just been issued from the State Department, would be sufficiently appalling to repel any attempt at examination of their contents by those who have not followed the story as to its main points with considerable precision. The documents only cease to appear formidable when one knows how much is written either to cover up the weakness of diplomatic agents, or to magnify the labors which they assume to perform.

The points in the documents before us which seem most deserving of notice at this late stage of the invasion—when England and Spain have been compelled, in deference to their own sense of self-respect, and to the judgment of the world, to retire from the scene of the invasion—are those which relate to the opening of the quarrel by the Minister of France. In looking closely into this portion of the business, we are painfully impressed with the suspicion that a quarrel was—above all things—desired by France, or that her representative was singularly under the influence of Sir Charles Lennox Wyke, as indeed our own Minister, judging from the certificates offered in his behalf by Sir Charles, appears also to have been.

It was on the 19th of July last that Sir Charles Wyke opened the ball by addressing to the Mexican Foreign Minister a note, in which he says the first announcement he had of the suspension of the Conventions for the payment of foreign claims was by means of a printed handbill hawked through the principal thoroughfares of the Mexican capital. Sir Charles, however, affects to believe that the handbill may have been spurious, as in an interview the same day with the Mexican Minister the subject had not been alluded to by the latter in any manner whatever. The answer to this from the Mexican Foreign Office is considerate, and in most respects complete—if we except the discourtesy of allowing the intimation of the suspension of the Conventions to be communicated first to the English Embassy through such irregular sources as those of which Sir Charles Wyke complains. The justification which Señor Zamacoia, the Mexican Minister, offers for a temporary suspension of the payments of the interest on the foreign debt is not such as a Government intent upon cheating would put forward, but is the simple plea which a debtor, placed in difficulty beyond his immediate power to overcome, would naturally urge.

Turn we, however, to the approach M. Saligny makes to the subject on the following day (the 20th of July). Here we shall find at once the evidence either of a mentor in the person of the English Ambassador, or a pre-arranged pleader specially retained in the interest of the Jecker Company of French speculators. In whichever of these characters we regard M. de Saligny, he appears in no very agreeable light. Although he had kept the Mexican Foreign Minister waiting the previous day, for a considerable time, and ultimately was guilty of the unpardonable rudeness of denying him audience, he addresses him the note to which we have referred, in terms which in the private intercourse of life one gentleman would hardly dare to employ toward another. Let us, in drawing the attention of our readers to this—the opening note of the quarrel by France—recall the fact that, apart from the swindling business of the Jecker Company, the amount of the debt acknowledged as due to France on the 20th of July last was the paltry sum of \$200,000. Let us also recall the fact that France had no complaint to make, as had England, of a robbery of the Embassy, and of repeated outrages on her subjects. Yet M. de Saligny, in addressing the representative of an independent and friendly Power, without previous remonstrance advances thus to the subject of the suspension of the Convention for Foreign Payments: "I would have thought that I was doing injustice to your Government by believing it capable of acting thus, disregarding its most sacred obligations in regard to the lawful property of another, and taking part in an attempt as audacious as insane upon the rights and dignity of France." This audacious and insane attack was the simple and very natural—although unfortunate—resolution passed by the Mexican Congress, asking time to meet its claims. Thus again M. de Saligny proceeds to lecture the Mexican Foreign Minister, to whom he had but a few hours before denied an audience. "The difficulties under which the Government succumbs are only the inevitable result, the forced and foreseen consequence of unheard of waste, of plunder and prodigality without name, of unbridled disorder, of abuses without example, of which since its accession it gives a sad spectacle. To permit at this time that, arming itself with its delinquencies even, against which the minister of the Emperor has not in vain endeavored to place it on its guard, it should lay hands on the lawful property of our subjects, on the resources devoted, in virtue of international conventions of the most sacred character, to supply a tardy and inadequate reparation to Frenchmen, innocent victims during so many years of a system of depredation and spoliation without example in any other country, would be on the part of France, not generosity, but veritable self-deception, an improvidence the more unpardonable, because if I have not much faith in the efficacy of the remedy proposed, I could not, let me frankly avow it to you, have any greater confidence in the hands intrusted with its application."

All this insolent lecturing of the Government of one country by the accredited representative of another—recognized as such simply by the courtesy which is usual to the community of nations, is as little characteristic of a power honestly disposed, as it is beneath the dignity of a Government claiming a foremost rank

among the nations. And in the light recently thrown on it by the invasion—now reduced to a solitary occupation by France, M. de Saligny's letter has all the disagreeable features of part of a conspiracy.

With that conspiracy we are disposed to connect Sir Charles Wyke only so far as he really appears open to suspicion. We notice specially, for instance, that in all this business he has made the advance movement. And from the moment of his arrival in the country as the successor of Mr. Mathew—evidently a much more liberal, if not an abler man—Sir Charles appears from all this official correspondence to have made it his special duty to create in England the most unfavorable impressions of the Juarez Government. So long ago as the 27th of May last he assured Lord Russell that the liberal Government of Mexico is animated by a blind hatred "toward the Church party;" and that its only thought has been to dissipate "the immense property formerly belonging to the clergy." Again, in reference to a most just and reasonable proposal to pledge certain church property as a guaranty for the payment of foreign debts, Sir Charles writes to Lord Russell that, "Were the Church party to return to power any such grant would be repudiated"—thus doing his best to repress any reasonable aspirations which the Liberal party in Mexico might have had to curb at once the pretensions of the Church reactionaries, and meet its honest obligations. Throughout, indeed, Sir Charles Wyke, although less offensively rude than his diplomatic neighbor in his communications with the Mexican Government, appears to have been predisposed against the Liberals, and we presume that the character of his labors is sufficiently appreciated ere this by the Government he misrepresented so far as to bring it into one of the most disgraceful conspiracies of modern times. By some fortunate instinct, as much, we take it, as by administrative tact, our own Government has kept its hands clear of the whole iniquitous business; and in Mr. Seward's latest circular to the allied Powers concerned in the invasion, we see that he speaks with judicious firmness of the attempt to re-establish monarchy on this continent. The danger, however, is not yet past, and we desire that the question be kept prominently before the public of this country.

WAS IT A SURPRISE?

Gen. Grant, as our readers are aware, has written for publication a letter, wherein he says of the battle on the Tennessee:

"As to the talk about our being surprised, nothing could be more false. If the enemy had sent us word where and when they would attack, we could not have been better prepared."

—We assure the General that, whether he was surprised or not, the public decidedly is. Can he really mean that, if he had known that his advance was to be attacked that fatal Sunday morning, he would have been himself so far away as Savannah? Can he mean that, if he had had notice of the time and manner of the Rebel attack, he would have had a regiment in his advance without a cartridge among them? Can he mean that, had he anticipated that attack, his advance division would have been speedily cut to pieces, and a majority of it, with its commander, taken prisoners? Gen. Grant has made a mistake in this rushing into print. He has already made such an official report as he thought fit, while the newspaper report most promptly and widely circulated was written and forwarded under his immediate inspiration. He should have rested there, and let others manage his defense.

UNION IN NEW-YORK.

Judge WILLARD, Senator from the Saratoga District, a life-long Democrat, elected last Fall by a unanimous vote, thus explains the non-appearance of his name at the bottom of the Union Legislative Address:

MEMOR. EVIDENCE. It is stated in the Atlas and Argos of this morning that my name was withheld from the Address issued by the Union and Republican Legislative caucus. If by this I meant that I was applied to and refused to sign it, the statement is erroneous. At the time of the meeting, I was confined to my home here with severe illness. I never saw the address or resolutions until they were published in the newspapers, after the adjournment of the Legislature. I cordially approve the proposed movement for a Union next Fall. With some exception, I am cordially approve of the address and resolutions. I would not have withheld my signature, however, though I should have failed in obtaining any change in the phraseology of either the address or resolutions. Their general tone and spirit are right; and the object commends itself to the favorable consideration of every man who thinks more of his country than of the worn-out tissue of departed parties.

The absence of my name from the proceedings is probably no consequence in itself, but it must be referred to at all I prefer that the reason for that absence should be truly stated.

Dated Saratoga Springs, April 23, 1862.

JOHN WILLARD.

The World seems incapable of comprehending the difference between discussing the statements of a journal, or even repelling its aspersions, and dragging in the name of an individual who is supposed to be engaged in the conduct of such journal. That difference, however, is abundantly clear to the great mass of mankind. The principles, the professions, the honesty, the consistency of a journal, are legitimate subjects of criticism; the habit of dragging the name of its presumed editor into a controversy is mainly confined to semi-civilized communities. It is a vicious and mischievous habit, which we have seldom been tempted to follow, and which we are resolved henceforth to discontinue. The World is a public matter; but who writes for or manages it is an affair which has never given us the slightest concern, and with which the public has no business.

That journal says we have not retracted what we formerly stated with regard to a recent change in its political bearings. We have not done so, because we believe what we stated was substantially true. We believe there has been a recent change in the ownership of The World, and that said journal is henceforth to be conducted under the patronage and in the interest of certain Democratic magnates of our City. We believe The Brooklyn Eagle had an inkling of the truth, and that the future course of The World will prove that The Eagle was not misinformed and did not mislead its readers. The scurrility of The World does not weaken our impression, for it seems intended to cover the lack of precision and circumstance in its denial. And there—leaving it to the exclusive enjoyment of its style of argumentation—we take leave of the subject.

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

THE REPORTED EVACUATION OF CORINTH.

THE EVACUATION OF YORKTOWN.

A PANIC IN RICHMOND.

THE PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE TAX BILL.

THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE.

Why the Rebels do not Arm their Slaves.

A FOREIGN CONFIDENCE MAN.

WASHINGTON, May 4, 1862.

THE REPORTED EVACUATION OF CORINTH. The reported evacuation of Corinth is disbelieved here. Dispatches from Gen. Halleck, Assistant-Secretary Scott, and another official person concur in stating that the Rebels have not moved.

THE EVACUATION OF YORKTOWN.

A civilian who has just returned from before Yorktown, where he spent Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and managed to inspect both our own and the enemy's works from a much nearer point than any correspondent has ventured, concluded that they were making preparations to evacuate, and that it was utterly impossible for our army to have completed its works so as to make a general attack for at least three weeks.

He says, also, that it was easy to gather from every deserter, white or black, that the Rebel army is greatly demoralized. He adds that some of the officers appear to be bent upon impressing the army with a belief that Congress is neglecting them, and that it may some time be their duty to serve it as Cromwell served Parliament.

The statement in correspondence from the army before Yorktown that the navy has not cooperated with Gen. McClellan, as was contemplated at the outset, is without the shadow of a foundation. In fact, the navy has at all times been prepared to afford whatever assistance was required, and it turns to do more. Nor is it true that the Secretary of War has interfered with any plan or plans of the Major-General commanding the army now in Yorktown. He did oppose one request, but the President granted it on the ground that he had promised to do so.

PANIC IN RICHMOND.

We have news from Richmond via Fredericksburg of importance. The people of the Rebel capital are panic-stricken, the wealthy citizens are packing up their furniture, and sending it into the country. An apparently intoxicated person the past week passing by the tobacco warehouses where our soldiers are confined, cried out to them, "Cheer up, boys, [McClellan or McDowell will be here in a few days." The sentry shot him dead on the spot.

CONFISCATION.

The wives of Union Fredericksburgians have been driven from the town. It need hardly be added that their husbands favor a stringent confiscation law. Nothing else, they say, will save them from utter ruin. The most influential will come here tomorrow to aid its passage.

STATE OF AFFAIRS AT FREDERICKSBURG.

Our Commanding-General galloping into Fredericksburg yesterday afternoon with his staff, was received with closed doors. Not a door open of house or store, not a face to be seen except now and then that of a curious dæmnel peering through half-closed blinds at the cavalcade of Yankees. Rebel pickets are still within a mile of Fredericksburg, and nightly gallop up through the streets.

THE PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE TAX BILL.

The predictions that Congress will pass no Tax bill this session, the complaints of its tardiness, and still more the imputations upon the motives of those who now have it in charge, are in the highest degree discreditable to those journals which give them currency. The Finance Committee of the Senate has been working upon the Tax bill since it came from the House, some three weeks since, with an intelligent assiduity of which such critics little dream. It has been in session almost the whole of every day, leaving the other business of the Senate mainly to others to do. It has listened to the representatives of every interest which had a suggestion to offer. It has read the bill quite through three times in Committee, that every Member might master it thoroughly, has submitted numerous questions of detail to sub-committees to consider after each day's adjournment, and has carefully revised their work. The machinery of the bill, as it came from the House, which was found to be very defective, has been thoroughly perfected, and numerous questions touching taxes upon specified articles have been discussed and passed upon. The House bill has now been matured, a few points only remaining to be considered, but a further question, which, so far from having been decisively settled, will probably be decided to-morrow, is whether or not to substitute another bill, radically different as Senator Simmons desires to do. Whether this is done or not, the Committee will probably be prepared to report by Tuesday or Wednesday, and possibly to-morrow. The taxes on raw cotton and on yachts have been stricken out; that on malt liquors, at first raised to \$3 a barrel, has been reduced to \$1, as it passed the House; that on distilled liquors stands at 20 cents a gallon. The Committee is still equally divided on the question of taxing slaves, but in the face of the vote of the House against it, it was thought best to report the bill without such a provision, leaving it to the Senate to introduce, if it chooses.

ARMING SLAVES.

Intelligent fugitive blacks who have come within Gen. McDowell's lines assert that the Rebels some time since seriously considered the propriety of arming the slaves, but concluded not to do so, for the reason that they were not sure whom they would shoot. "Golly, we know who to shoot, massa," added one of the loyal negroes who made this statement.

A FOREIGN CONFIDENCE MAN.

Diplomatic and military circles are laughing over the overreaching of two foreign Ministers by a foreign adventurer. Count Schweinitz, as he calls himself, some months ago presented to Chevalier Hulsemann, the Austrian Minister, a letter of introduction, ostensibly from Gen. Schneider, Chief of Staff to the Archduke Maximilian. Schneider wrote that the bearer, one of the Archduke Maximilian's Aide-de-Camp's, desired a commission to fight for freedom in freedom's holy land, and added that as he wished him to retain his position in the Austrian service, he should continue to him his salary, which Hulsemann would be so good as to pay monthly. Hulsemann paid him for two months a sum not far from \$800, and introduced Schweinitz to Baron von Gerolt, the Prussian Ambassador. The two Ministers made much of him, and secured him a staff ap-

POSTAGE ON NOVA-SCOTIA.

On and after the 1st of June next, all letters mailed in the United States and addressed to Nova-Scotia will be required to be prepaid by United States postage stamps, at the existing rates, namely 10 cents for all distances not over 3,000 miles from the frontier line, and 15 cents for greater distances. All letters received from Nova-Scotia after that date will come fully prepaid, and are to be delivered without further charge.

REOPENING OF THE SOUTHERN PORTS.

The following two important circulars have been addressed to the foreign ministers, announcing the reopening of communication with Southern localities reconquered from the insurgents:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Friday, May 2, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to state for your information that the mails are now allowed to pass to and from New-Orleans and other places, which, having heretofore been closed by rebel forces, have since been recovered and are now reoccupied by the land and naval forces of the United States. It is proper, however, to add that a military surveillance is maintained over such mails, as far as the Government finds it necessary for the public safety.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

WM. H. SEWARD.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, May 3, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to state for the information of your Government, that a Collector has been appointed by the President for New-Orleans, and appointed by the President for New-Orleans, and that the necessary preparations are being made to modify the blockade so far as to permit limited shipments to be made to and from that and one or more other ports which are now closed by blockade, at times and upon conditions which will be made known by proclamation.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

WM. H. SEWARD.

CONTRADICTION.

There is authority for stating that there is not a

pointment through Secretary Stanton, who assigned him to Gen. Doubleday with the rank of Captain, he having declined to go on Gen. McClellan's staff, on the plea that association with the Orleans Prisoners would be distasteful to his royal master. One day Hulsemann happened to have the names of Count Schweinitz and Gen. Schneider, but was surprised to find neither. He wrote for information to Count von Rechberg, the Austrian Prime Minister, who replied that as for Gen. Schneider, he had never heard of him, and as for Schweinitz, a man of that name was once in the Austrian service as a cadet, but in 1850 was tried for serious misdemeanors, cashiered, and imprisoned. As Hulsemann was communicating this letter to Baron Gerolt at the latter's residence, Schweinitz was announced. Hulsemann retired into an adjoining apartment, whence he emerged at a critical point of the conversation, charged Schweinitz with being a swindler, and read him the letter. Of course, he was kicked out of the house and out of the American army, but the \$800 paid him by the Chevalier Hulsemann have not yet been refunded.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, May 3, 1862.

NUMBER OF COMMANDING OFFICERS.

The bill proposing to limit the number of brigadier-generals to 200, and of major-generals to 25, in all probability will become a law.

COMPENSATION FOR MANUMITTED SLAVES.

Thus far for within two days applications have been filed for compensation, for 42 of the slaves manumitted in the District of Columbia, under the Emancipation act.

NO MORE TORACCO.

M. Louis de Geoffroy, First Secretary of the French Legation, and formerly Charge d'Affaires to New-Granada, having been appointed Minister to Greece, is on the eve of leaving for that country.

According to reliable information from Richmond, the planters have determined to raise no more tobacco this season, and the military had seized the stock on hand, to prevent it falling into the hands of the Union Army.

BRIGADIERS CONFIRMED.

The latest count shows that there are now 163 Brigadier-Generals, and that 25 in addition await Senatorial action.

GEN. SICKLES'S NOMINATION.

A favorable report has been made on the nomination of Daniel E. Sickles, and there seems to be no doubt now that he will soon be confirmed.

THE CHARGE AGAINST GEN. SMITH.

The following is the letter read by Senator Morrill in the Senate on Friday last:

CAMP NEAR YORKTOWN, Va., April 20, 1862.

Hon. JAMES A. ALCOCK—SIR: You have sent me, in your place in the House of Representatives, to offer a formal statement against me. You have offered to the country no evidence in support of your stated assertion. You have, so far as I am concerned, taken no public steps to collect testimony to substantiate your charge, and the indignant denials which have come from officers of this division to yourself and colleagues have failed to elicit from you any open and frank answer. It is now your duty to speak, and face to face with a brave foe, I turn back to you, an assassin, and tell you you must prove your charge against me, or make your retraction as public as the lie itself, and I am certain that, throughout the length and breadth of this great land, every manly heart will say I have deserved no less than I have a right to expect.

WILLIAM F. SMITH.

Commanding Division in the Army of the Potomac.

NAVAL ORDERS AND APPOINTMENTS.

The Navy Department has made the following appointments:

James Seaman, Acting Third Assistant Engineer of the United States steamship Dragon, at Hampton Roads, Commander John A. Winslow, ordered to report to Flag Officer Foster for duty.

O. J. Russell, Michigan, appointed Acting Assistant Surgeon, ordered to report to Com. Paulding for duty.

Acting Master Isaac Warren, detached from the Flag, ordered to the United States steamship Fort Henry.

Acting Master D. F. Mosman, detached from the Fort Henry, ordered to United States steamship Flag.

Master's Mate C. J. Hubbell, of Jonesville, Wis., has departed, after having drawn two months' advance pay.

THE CITY OFFICIALS TAKING THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

The oath of allegiance is being administered to all the officers and employees of the City Government of Washington. Thus far none